

Message Text

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EB/AVP:A.WHITE (INFO)

EUR/NE:D.GOODMAN

EUR/WE:E.BEIGEL

FAA:A.BRODERICK

NOAA:D.HUNT

NASA:R.BARNES

EPA:H.WISER

DOD:E.W.FRIDAY

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SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON STRATOSPHERIC MONITORING

REF: (A) PARIS 9248 (NOTAL); (B) LESLIE REED LETTER TO
ANTHONY BRODERICK, FEB. 17, 1978

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1. ARTICLE XII OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT (TIAS 8255), SIGNED
MAY 5, 1976, CALLS FOR A "REVIEW OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN
UNDER IT" AND "ANY NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS" TWO YEARS
AFTER ITS SIGNATURE.

2. THE U.S. IS PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE COOPERA-
TION UNDER THE AGREEMENT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, AND

BELIEVES THE BRITISH AND FRENCH ARE ALSO SATISFIED. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS PROVING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM OF THE EARLY PERIOD OF THE AGREEMENT GOING, BOTH SINCE SOME OF THE STATED OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN REACHED (E.G., ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMISSIONS COMMITTEE IN ICAO), AND SINCE OTHER, BROADER, INTERNATIONAL FORA ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING SOME OF THE SAME ISSUES (E.G., WMO'S UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL OZONE CONFERENCE).

3. THE AGREEMENT HAS SERVED A VERY USEFUL PURPOSE, AND WE BELIEVE IT CAN CONTINUE TO BE VALUABLE. WHETHER OR

NOT ANY NEW ACTIVITIES ARE INITIATED, THE AGREEMENT WILL REMAIN A TANGIBLE REMINDER OF THE NEED FOR, AND DESIRE TO, COOPERATE AMONG THE THREE COUNTRIES; A REFERENCE BASE WHICH CAN BE USED TO ENCOURAGE OR SUPPORT ONGOING DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES AND INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AMONG EXPERTS OF THE THREE COUNTRIES; AND A VEHICLE FOR JOINT APPROACHES TO AND/OR SUPPORT OF BROADER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

4. CONCERNING POSSIBLE NEW COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE FUTURE, WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. WE DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE QUITE USEFUL IF THE THREE COUNTRIES COULD AGREE TO GIVE JOINT MORAL AND, WHERE NEEDED AND POSSIBLE, TANGIBLE SUPPORT TO WMO SO
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THAT TECHNICAL CONFERENCES SUCH AS THE JUNE 1978 ONE IN TORONTO COULD BE HELD WITH SOME REGULARITY - SAY EVERY 18 MONTHS. WE ALSO AGREE WITH THE POINT MADE IN REF B TO THE EFFECT THAT THE THREE PARTIES SHOULD BE EXPLICITLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE UNEP OZONE EFFORT AND AGREE THAT REED SHOULD WRITE UNEP TO THAT EFFECT AS HE SUGGESTED. LAST, WE CAN SUPPORT THE FRENCH SUGGESTION THAT MORE EMPHASIS BE PLACED ON FLUOROCARBONS, AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS.

5. ONE MINOR PROBLEM AREA UNDER THE AGREEMENT IS THE REQUIREMENT IN ARTICLE IX FOR THE EXCHANGE OF REPORTS EACH SIX MONTHS "ON PROGRESS MADE AND DATA OBTAINED". THE PAST REPORTS HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL AND WE ACCEPT, AS WE THINK THE BRITISH AND FRENCH DO, THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE AT THE SAME TIME TO WORK OUT A SYSTEM WHICH WILL LESSEN THE TIME AND EFFORT INVOLVED IN PREPARING AND EXCHANGING THE REPORTS. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SET UP DESIGNATED CONTACT POINTS IN EACH COUNTRY WHO COULD WRITE EACH OTHER EVERY SIX MONTHS WITH BRIEF UPDATES OF INFORMATION AND REPORTS ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS. SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD ELIMINATE

A GOOD DEAL OF THE CURRENT BUREAUCRATIC COMPLEXITY. WHILE REF B IMPLIES THAT THE BRITISH WOULD BE AGREEABLE, WE DO NOT KNOW "OFFICIALLY" WHETHER SUCH A LOWERING OF THE LEVEL OF FORMALITY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE BRITISH AND FRENCH.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DRAWING ON THE PRECEDING, POSTS ARE REQUESTED INFORMALLY TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE HOST OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE AGREEMENT IN GENERAL, AND THE QUESTIONS OF THE SIX-MONTH REPORTS AND THE TWO-YEAR REVIEW IN PARTICULAR. WE DO NOT BELIEVE A FORMAL TRIPARTITE SESSION IS NECESSARY FOR SUCH A REVIEW AND, IF THE BRITISH AND FRENCH AGREE, WOULD BE HAPPY TO

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CONSIDER THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ADEQUATE TO COMPLY WITH ARTICLE XII OF THE AGREEMENT. (IF THE FRENCH WISH TO PUT THEIR THOUGHTS IN A LETTER - REF(A), WE WILL, OF COURSE, GIVE IT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.) WHILE WE ARE NOT TRYING TO STIMULATE NEW ACTIVITIES, SHOULD THE BRITISH OR FRENCH HAVE ANY PROPOSALS, PLEASE REPORT WITH AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE. VANCE

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